1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

had their dwellings far from any fishing water, I myself never saw these Indians engaging in fishing. As they had, however, brought with them their fishing gear (except the frameworks of their landing-nets), I succeeded in making a good collection of this kind of implement. 226

The Choroti fish with nets (using them as landing-nets), fish-hooks, and with bow and arrow. The last-mentioned fishing method, which, as far as I know, has only been observed by Moberg a Swede, is, however, only used during the latter part of the rainy season.[1]

The nets are either fastened so as to fill up the angle between two rigid poles, which are tied together by their lower ends (fig. 113), or between two supple rods, tied together at both ends (fig 114). The angle-set poles, and the rods, seem as a rule to be about 3 m in length. These fork poles and rods (dip-net frames) the Choroti had not troubled to bring with them to their dwelling site — far removed from any fishing water — in the neighbourhood of Tatarenda, and therefore my description of these implements is founded on two specimens preserved in the Gothenburg Museum, and on such photographs[2] and information as Nordenskiöld has kindly given me.[3]

When fishing, the Indians often split up into two parties, one of whom make a bar across the river with the nets that are stretched between poles (the barring-nets), which are then held so that the points of the fork rest on the bottom of the river. The other party of fishermen drives the fish towards the barring-nets, at the same time using their nets that are fixed between two rods (dip-nets) for catching fish.[4] These latter nets are used like large landing-nets, and, by means of the flexible rods, can be opened and closed. The Choroti have no water craft of any kind (not even rafts), but do their fishing swimming or wading. When fish is scarce, the Choroti block up the Pilcomayo with pole-built fences that, here and there, have openings in them. In front of these, the Indians sit on small platforms (figs. 114 and 115), and fish with dip-nets. When the weather is cold, or when fish is to be fried, fire is made on the platforms, which are isolated from the fire by means of a layer of river mud.[5] These [501 481] 343 226

[1] Nordenskiöld (11), pp. 60.
[2] Nordenskiöld (18), fig. 8, 11 8, plate 14', and Karsten (3), the figure on p. 34.
[3] Letter dated 14. 7. 1931, Rockefeller collection of manuscripts, volume 1931, letter N.
[4] Nordenskiöld (18), p. 43.
[5] Nordenskiöld (18), p. 44.